

9 AUG 1968

P-Raymont, Henry
 Soc. 4.01.2 Twenty Letters
 To A Friend

Svetlana Alliluyeva Burned Her Soviet Passport

P-Stalin, Svetlana

By HENRY RAYMONT

Svetlana Alliluyeva has written a friend that she burned her Soviet passport last summer so that no one could ever think that she might return to Moscow. She also indicated that she intended to seek United States citizenship.

In an intense, personal and sometimes caustically witty letter,

Svetlana Alliluyeva's letter is printed on Page 14.

ter, Miss Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter, vowed she would never return to the Soviet Union, "a land of uninterrupted pain and trauma" for which, she said, she felt none of the nostalgia that Russians living abroad often develop.

Writing with affection about friendships she has formed with American families in Princeton, N. J., where she has lived for almost a year, she said, "My life is now really free, full of interest and significance for me."

The 1,500-word letter, dated May 11, was sent to an unidentified elderly Russian woman living in Paris with a request that it be published as a reply to an article in the French newspaper L'Aurore.

The article written by André Vigo, depicted Miss Alliluyeva, who is in her early 40's, as lonely, longing to return to her two children in Moscow, unable to adapt to American life and heavily guarded by the police. The article was based on a visit to Princeton, the author said, "I should be resigned by now to being lied about," Miss Alliluyeva wrote, "but somehow I cannot get reconciled to the idea that from now on and forever there will be no escape for me from lies. As a result I continue to react strongly to articles of this kind."

Her letter was first published in Russian in a small exile journal in Paris called La Pensée Russe, and more recently by La Croix, a French Roman Catholic daily. It also appeared in Russian in the July 14 issue of Novoye Russkoye Slovo, a Russian-language daily in New York.

Will Seek U.S. Citizenship, She Writes to a Friend

Reached at her home in Princeton, Miss Alliluyeva made available an approved English translation of the letter. The translation was by Pav Chavchavadze, a descendant of Georgian princes who emigrated to the United States, and has written several books about Czarist Russia.

In the letter, Miss Alliluyeva acknowledged that she missed her children—Iosif, 21, born during her first marriage, to Grigory Morozov, and Yekaterina, 16, of her second marriage, to Yuri Zhdanov—but she was firm in insisting she would not return to the Soviet Union.

"I am not suffering from nostalgia and I shall never return to Russia," she said.

Miss Alliluyeva fled from the Soviet Union in March, 1967, taking advantage of a trip to India, her first trip outside the Soviet Union. When she arrived in the United States a month later, she said she had come "to seek the self-expression that has been denied me for so long in Russia."

"I Wake Up in Horror"

"I myself think of Russia as a land of uninterrupted pain and trauma," she wrote. "Because of this, when I now see Moscow streets in my dreams I wake up in horror. It's as if one were dreaming of a prison from which one had escaped, and then suddenly . . . that is how I feel. And I shall never return to that prison! And my wish for all those I love and remember is that they too should manage to get out of it some day!"

To remove any doubt that her decision never to return to the Soviet Union was final, Miss Alliluyeva said, she threw her Soviet passport in the fire. She did this last summer "when Moscow began to sling mud at me," she added.

At the same time, she wrote that she would be "happy to become a citizen of the United States" but added that she was a cosmopolitan and could feel at home in the East and West outside the Communist orbit.

Commenting on other aspects of the article in L'Aurore, she said that she must make the following denials:

"I am not planning to write the history of Russia, I do not smoke (and never did), I do not write poetry, I do not roam every morning around the institute in which Einstein worked (though I am friends with his daughter Margot); I can find no implements anywhere around me which would indicate a 'secret surveillance' over me by the police; I do not play

golf; as for tennis I have long ago forgotten it."

Then she added that she did plan to buy a car, and did "not consider this as being particularly 'bourgeois.'"

In a telephone conversation yesterday, Miss Alliluyeva confirmed that she intended to take out American naturalization papers as soon as she completed her five-year residence requirement.

"I took the first step when I established permanent residence in the United States a year ago," she said.

In the phone conversation she described Margot Einstein, a sculptor and daughter of the late physicist, "one of my dearest neighbors."

Miss Alliluyeva conceded that she may have left the impression that she would feel nostalgia for Russia through her book, "Twenty Letters to a Friend," which she completed in Moscow in 1963 and smuggled out of the Soviet Union through an Indian diplomat. The book was published in English and Russian by Harper & Row last October.

She said that she and her ideas had changed greatly since 1963, but that she had let the book go to press, as it was, with the intention of discussing the changes in her next book.



The New York Times

Svetlana Alliluyeva